

Appropriations Committee

February 28, 2023

Public Hearing on **H.B. 6659 An Act Concerning the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2025, and Making Appropriations Therefor.**

Good morning Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Berthel, Representative Nuccio and members of the Appropriations Committee.

I am a hermit Carmelite from Waterbury Connecticut and have volunteered my time for years. I suffer from ADHD and anxiety disorder. My friend told me about the Independence Center in Waterbury CT. I also went to Catholic Charities for counseling and the psychiatrist. I was put on Buspar and it took the anxiety away, but I still have some symptoms and sometimes struggle with it.

At the Independence Center, through Mental Health Connecticut, I have an excellent counselor who I talk to quite a lot. The Independence Center is a lighthouse in an ever-growing darkness. For some reason, mentally ill come to the area because of the cost of living. As a Hermit Carmelite, I volunteer my time to the community, especially to the homeless and those who suffer from alcoholism under the direction of Monseigneur Bevens who is my superior. Your job is to take care of your constituents, while supporting infrastructure of our republic.

Please increase the funding over the next two years for our much-needed programs, which do so much with so little.

Thank you.